

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17-19, 21, and 23-29 are pending. Claims 13-16, 20, and 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 13 and 15 were objected to. However, the objection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 13 and 15.

Claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 for being obvious in view of Sanada et al. (EP 0881560 A2) and/or Suzuki (U.S. Pat. No. 5,796,736).

A double patenting rejection was raised against claims 13-24 in connection with co-pending and commonly owned U.S. Application No. 09932,240. The rejection is moot for at least the reason that claims 13-24 in the co-pending application have been canceled.

As to the difference between Sanada et al., and the present invention, in Sanada, the upper node device has a single input/output port and the identification information of the input/output port is used as security information. However, there is no disclosure concerning the art of updating a control table, when the connection status of the input/output port was changed.

Suzuki ('736) relates to an art of automatically recognizing relationships of physical connections between each of ATM switches in an ATM network and each of ATM terminals. However, there is no disclosure concerning the art of updating a control table, when the connection status of the input/output port was changed.

Further, there is no disclosure that a control table includes identification information of upper node device, identification information of input/output port of the upper node device and information concerning access enabled or access disabled.

On the other hand, in the present invention, when connection status of the fiber channel port was changed in the upper node device, replacement of the fiber channel port is detected by the storage controller on the basis of information notified from the fabric, and the port name of the fiber channel port in the control table is replaced with a port name of a new fiber channel port replacing the fiber channel port before the replacement, and in case that the port name of the fiber channel port before replacement was access enabled, a port name of the fiber channel after replacement is set to be access enabled in the control table, and for a newly

Appl. No. 09/964,069
Amdt. sent April 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 13, 2005

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added fiber channel port, a node name of corresponding upper node device, a port name of a fiber channel port of the newly added fiber channel port and security information in which access disabled is set are registered in the control table.

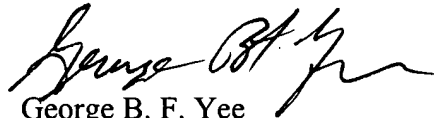
None of the references disclose such specific features. Accordingly, the present invention should be regarded as being patentable over the references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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